

IN THE CLAIMS

20. (currently amended) A process of screening for biologically active agents that mimic Bok function, comprising:

combining a candidate biologically active agent with a mammalian Bok polypeptide wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid having at least 75% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:7;

determining whether said agent competes with said Bok polypeptide in an *in vitro* assay designed to assess Bok polypeptide activity.

21. (currently amended) A process of screening for biologically active agents that affect Bok function, comprising:

combining a candidate biologically active agent with a mammalian Bok polypeptide wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid having at least 75% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:7; and

determining whether said agent binds to or interacts with said Bok polypeptide.

22. (previously presented) The process of claim 21 further comprising the step of determining whether said agent up-regulates, down-regulates, enhances, inhibits or modulates the activity of said Bok polypeptide.

23. (previously presented) The process of claim 21 further comprising the step of determining whether said agent enhances, inhibits or modulates apoptosis.

24. (previously presented) The process of claim 22 or claim 23 wherein said agents' effect on the activity of said Bok polypeptide is determined in an *in vitro* assay or *in vivo*.

25. (previously presented) The process of any of claims 20 to 23 wherein the Bok polypeptide is a human Bok polypeptide.

26. (previously presented) The process of any of claims 20 to 23 wherein said agent binds to a BH domain of a Bok polypeptide.

27. (previously presented) The process of claim 26 wherein the BH domain is the BH3 domain.

28. (previously presented) The process of any of claims 20 to 23, wherein the Bok polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, or SEQ ID NO:8.

29. (previously presented) The process of any of claims 20 to 23, wherein said agent inhibits the ability of a Bok protein to form heterodimers with anti-apoptotic proteins.